The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and official interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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LABOR'S GOAL!
To Repeal
Taft-Hartley Law

WHOLE NO. 1948 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 1948 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 38, NO. 32

Dollar Volume of Construction Rises; Publicly Financed Housing at New Low

Washington.—The value of new construction put in place in July and the number of workers employed on building projects set new postwar highs, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The BLS report showed, however, that commercial construction, particularly of stores, restaurants, and garages, continued to be the most important factor in the increased dollar volume of building.

In the housing field, while gains were registered for privately financed homes, expenditures for publicly financed housing dropped to a low of $23,000,000. This significant development means that low-income families are finding it increasingly difficult to obtain adequate housing facilities within the reach of their budgets.

In earlier reports, the BLS declared that the larger dollar volume in residential construction "reflects the unexpected predominance of higher-priced housing this year" over homes for moderate and low-income families.

During July, the value of all construction put in place amounted to $1,724,000,000, or 7 percent above the level for June, and 26 percent greater than July of 1947. The total of expenditures for almost all types of construction was the highest recorded for any month since January, 1930.

Employment by construction contractors totaled 2,186,000 in July, an increase of 22,000 workers over the revised June estimate. July marks the fifth successive month in which construction employment was higher than for any corresponding month since 1929, when the postwar construction program was at its height. Compared with the same month a year ago, employment this July was higher by 148,000.

Expenditures for new private nonfarm housing rose to $667,000,000 in July, surpassing all previous monthly totals of dollar volume. The gain over June was $34,000,000 and the increase over July, 1947, was $212,000,000.

Construction expenditures for the first 7 months of 1948 totaled $9,400,000,000, compared with $6,900,000,000 in the same months of 1947.

Cartoon For Labor Day Editions:

SPIRIT OF LABOR DAY 1948

Congress Votes Limited Credit Curbs, Housing Aid As Special Session Ends

Washington.—As predicted by AFL President William Green, the 80th Congress met for its special session and went home again without accomplishing very much in the way of legislative progress.

Winding up 13 days of talk in the middle of a Washington summer, the legislators departed for the political battlegrounds leaving President Truman with 2 limited substitutes for his sweeping anti-inflation and long-range housing programs:

1. A limited credit control bill restoring wartime consumer buying regulations and granting the Federal Reserve Board authority to increase reserve requirements of member banks.

2. A "free enterprise" housing bill liberalizing government loan guarantees to builders of low-cost homes and large-scale rental projects.

The Congress passed only one other measure proposed by the President in his request for a loan to the United Nations for the building of its headquarters in New York City.

No action was taken on Mr. Truman's request for the repeal of the Taft-Hartley law or on other measures affecting labor. These included:

Excess profits tax, regulation of commodity exchanges, priority allocation of materials, tightened rent controls, rationing authority, price controls, T-E-W public housing and slum clearance, federal aid to education, increased minimum wage, increased social security benefits, nondiscrimination administration of displaced persons, international wheat agreement, public power and reclamation appropriations, increased federal pay, and anti-poll tax legislation.

The housing legislation as finally passed did not include any provision for federally financed low-cost housing or slum clearance projects. The Senate agreed to new legislation omitting this controversial provision and thereby broke the deadlock between Senate and House over the public housing clause in the Taft-Ellender-Wagner long-range housing measure which had been passed by the Senate but which was bottled up in the House Rules Committee.

New York Convention Holds Defeat of Labor Foes Vital

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York.—The 68th annual convention of the New York State Federation of Labor concluded its sessions on a note of warning that indicates organized labor defeats the reactionaries at the polls on Nov. 2, its future would be endangered.

The 4-day conclave at the Hotel Commodore here which attracted 1,179 delegates reinstated Thomas L. Hanover, Jr., as president and secretary-treasurer, respectively, and other officers.

Earlier, the delegates unanimously adopted a constitutional amendment disqualifying Communists and all others seeking overthrow by force of the U. S. government from membership in the State Federation of Labor or serving as delegates to its convention.

This important amendment, which led to the exclusion of 20 persons charged with being Communists, declared:

"All credentialed delegates shall be required to affirm to the satisfaction of the credentials committee that they are not Communists or members of any other party seeking to overthrow by force the government of the United States and that they have not been connected with anti-American activities. Failure to present such affirmance shall be sufficient grounds for rejection of the credentials."

The convention also unanimously approved resolutions calling for the repeal of the Taft-Hartley law, passage of the Truman-Murray-Dingell Health bill, approval of a Fair Employment Practices bill and an anti-lynching bill.

A special report on education called for greater participation by the trade union movement in local school boards and asked for passage of appropriations bills supporting public education.

AFL State Group Meets

Banners reading, "Support Labor's League for Political Education," and "Repeal the Taft-Hartley Law," set the stage for the largest convention of the New York State Federation of Labor which met recently in New York City for its 68th annual session. Shown above is the opening meeting being addressed by Francis Cardinal Spellman.

Frank P. Fenton, Top AFL Leader, Dies Suddenly

Washington.—Francis P. Fenton, the AFL's international representative, died here after suffering 2 heart attacks in his office at AFL headquarters. He was 58 years old.

Mr. Fenton served as U. S. workers delegate to the International Labor Conference and returned only recently from San Francisco, where he attended the 31st session of the world labor conference.

The genial and well-liked AFL leader championed the cause of free democratic trade unions in his work with the ILO. He led an exhausting fight against left-wing influence in the organization which resulted in his own election to the ILO governing body and the election of worker delegates from other anti-Communist nations. Although unsuccessful, Mr. Fenton sparked the drive to keep the Soviet-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions from gaining a consultative relationship with the ILO.

Prior to his appointment as international representative for the AFL, Mr. Fenton served as its national director of organization to which post he was named in 1936.

Mr. Fenton was born in Boston in 1890, where he was reared. He went to work at an early age. He became a member of Boston Local 66 of Coal and Coal Chauffeurs, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, and soon became active in the affairs of his local union.

During his career in the Massachusetts labor movement, Mr. Fenton served as vice-president and president of the Central Labor Union in Boston and as representative for the Teamsters Union, and later as regional director for the American Federation of Labor.

A lawyer, Mr. Fenton acquired a reputation for militant devotion to the democratic principles of American trade unionism, for keen intelligence, and for courage in fighting the right with all his vigor and ability.

In addition to his work with the American Federation of Labor, Mr. Fenton served on numerous federal committees, boards and commissions. He was a consultant on vocational education to the U. S. Office of Education and a member of the Labor-Management Advisory Committee of the U. S. Department of Labor. He was also a labor member of the National Planning Association.

In his last position as international representative, Mr. Fenton succeeded Robert J. Watt, who died recently a year ago enroute home from Geneva, the International Labor Conference in Geneva, Switzerland.

State Group to Use Radio Against Anti-Labor Laws

Boston.—The Massachusetts State Federation of Labor is mustering its forces to defeat a set of vicious anti-labor laws to be voted upon by the people in the coming election.

The legislation, which outlaws the worst that Senator Taft and Representative Hartley were able to screw, would: (1) Make it a crime to call a strike unless a majority of the workers employed in a plant, not simply of those casting votes in favor of the action, and (3) make it mandatory for each union to elect its officers by secret ballot each year.

Combating the threat to legitimate trade union activity posed by these laws, the Massachusetts Federation has taken to the air and enlisted the support of the people through a referendum and to marshal labor's votes to overthrow the proposals.

The federation sought and received help from the American Federation of Radio Artists, which is headed by George Heller, in the preparation of its radio appeal to the people of Massachusetts. Prominent AFRA actors and announcers, contributing their time, have made 3 spot announcements each which will be beamed all over the state by local radio stations in the same way that spot announcements are handled.

AFL leaders in the state are counting heavily upon these public appeals to help bring out a record pro-labor vote when November rolls around. They know that failure of labor to defeat the proposals will encourage and hamstring union activities and weaken the state's labor movement.

For Labor Day Editions: Myers Praises Unions for Part In Drive Against Child Labor, to Foster Education

New York.—"The children of America owe a great debt of gratitude to organized labor," declared James Myers, membership secretary of the National Child Labor Committee, in a special Labor Day message.

Recalling that "it was the trade unions which started a successful agitation for free public schools in early American history," Mr. Myers pointed out that labor has been a major influence ever since in freeing children from toil in factory, mine and field and providing them with increasing opportunities for education.

"The job is far, from done," Myers said. "For even today there are nearly 2,000,000 children 14-17 years of age employed in industry and agriculture. Their future is dependent upon their being strengthened and better enforcement secured.

"Attention must also once more be given to the public schools. Do they offer the kind of courses which will prove interesting and useful to young people and give them preparation for intelligent citizenship in a democracy? A study of 'why children leave school' now being conducted by the National Child Labor Committee promises to produce significant revelations on this subject."

Labor Day, it is well for us all to remember, will not be properly to be judged by the welfare of its children.

BLS Reports 5-Fold Boost in Workers Covered by Health, Pension Contracts

Washington.—At least 7,000,000 American workers are covered by health-pension insurance contracts with their employers, according to a report released by the Labor Department.

The number of workers is about 5 times as many as were included under such contracts in 1945, the Bureau of Labor Statistics survey disclosed.

Behind the figures is the fact that workers have shown increased interest in additional economic security benefits which have been unsuccessful in transmitting their desires into tangible contract provisions.

In many cases workers, through their unions, have voluntarily refused part, or all, of any immediate wage increase offered by an employer to devote the money, instead, to the progress of an insurance program. This same interest in welfare is demonstrated in union demands for a broad expansion of the federal government's own social security plan.

Of the trends a new Labor Department publication has this to say:

"Group insurance programs, in one form or another, exist today in varying degree in nearly 100 national or international unions.

"Large numbers of workers in the following industries are covered by some type of health, welfare, and retirement benefit plans secured through collective bargaining:

"Clothing (men's and women's), textiles, coal mining, construction, machinery (particularly electrical), rubber, paper, furniture, publishing, steel, utilities, retail and wholesale trade, local transportation, fur and leather, cleaning and dyeing, hotel, commercial telegraphy, and jewelry manufacturing."

In the past the federal government did much to help unions win insurance protection.

First, the government's social security program, begun early in the late President Roosevelt's administration, encouraged labor unions to amplify those benefits through private plans with employers.

Then, in the war years, the government limited wage increases, but permitted employers to inaugurate, or expand, worker insurance plans (since the money was set aside and not immediately used to increase purchasing power, though it did increase employers' costs to some extent). More recently, the Labor Relations Board ruled that employers are compelled, by the labor code, to consider demands for such insurance plans in collective bargaining with unions.

Of the funds a new Labor Department publication has this to say:

"Contributions to these programs are virtually industry-wide, but most of the funds have come out of members of a local, rather than an employer unit.

With such plans seemingly on a steady rise, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the trends are:

1. "Toward more financing of the plan by the employer—or reducing the employees' share of the cost.

2. "To increase the number of different benefits provided, as well as to liberalize existing benefits."

Over Half of Firms Inspected Guilty Of Violating Federal Labor Statutes

Washington.—Despite continuance of the unprecedented business 'boom' with its high profits, more than half of the establishments investigated by Labor Department representatives during the year ending June 30 were guilty of violating the minimum wage, overtime, and child-labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Public Contracts Act.

This was brought out in the annual report on investigations made by the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions of the Labor Department.

Last year, the report said, of 49,000 establishments where checks were made, 15,799 of the inspections showed violations of the three major provisions of the two acts, McComb said this does not necessarily mean that 15,799 establishments had been revealed to be in violation of the two statutes during the two-year period of activities which the report covers.

Of the employers found in violation, 6,000 were in the retail institution of $4,236,761 in back wages to 108,000 employees. Only 60,000 of those employees were owed back wages because they had been paid overtime compensation at the rate of one and one-half times their regular rate of pay for work beyond 40 hours a week. Of these, it was estimated approximately 12,000 were owed back wages because they were not paid anything to pay them at least 40 cents an hour for some time during the past two years.

Draft Law Protects Reserves Job Rights

Washington.—Reservists called to active duty after June 24, 1948, effective on the date of the Selective Service Act, will be entitled to full reemployment rights after their active duty, Director of the Bureau of Veterans' Reemployment Rights, announced here.

They must be released within three years after entering upon active duty, and must have been employed at least three years as they are able to obtain reemployment after their active duty, he said.

The Selective Service Act of 1948 extends reemployment rights to persons who enter active duty in the armed forces "in response to an order or call to active duty". Sawyer said. "Whether with or without his consent, therefore, a reservist who only does so in response to a call to active duty. This distinction is important because the reasons behind the call, and there reasons may be, are no ground to discriminate against returning veterans in reemployment rights.

Under the Selective Service Act of 1948, the Bureau of Veterans' Reemployment Rights in the Department of Labor has responsibility for assisting veterans and reservists in their efforts in the exercise of their reemployment rights.

Hines Appointed to NEPH Committee

Washington.—The President called a meeting of the 17 of his Committee on National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week. Leaders of industry, labor, farm, women's, veterans', educational, welfare, professional, medical, civic, and fraternal organizations are members of the committee.

Lewis G. Hines, national legislative representative for the American Federation of Labor, is serving on the AFL member of the President's committee.

At the same time the President announced the appointment of Robert H. Ramspeck as vice-chairman of the committee. Ramspeck is executive vice-president of the Air Transport Association of America. He was a former member of Congress from Georgia and one-time whip of the House.

The committee will make plans for the 1949 observance of NEPH Week —the first week in October which was established by Public Law 176 of the 79th Congress.

Vice Admiral Ross T. McIntire, U. S. N. (Ret.), is chairman of the committee. It is conducting a drive to obtain more employment opportunities for disabled veterans and other handicapped persons seeking jobs.

RISE IN CONSUMER CREDIT SETS NEW POSTWAR PEAK

Washington.—The expansion of consumer credit is continuing and has reached another record high of $14,-172,000,000, the Federal Reserve Board reported.

The board's report showed increase during June, about two-thirds was attributed to further gains in installment buying.

The remainder of the increase was due to expansion in single payment loans and the amount outstanding on charge accounts.

The board report showed total installment credit is serving at the rate of its own, $7,192,000,000 at the beginning of July.

This meant Americans had gone $2,000,000,000 further into debt on the installment plan during the 5 months that the postponement controls died last November 1.

NLRB JURISDICTION EXTENDED TO RETAIL FIELD

Washington.—Further evidence of the expanding jurisdiction of the National Labor Relations Board was given in a trial examiner's determination that a retail department store is now subject to the Taft-Hartley law. He is Arthur Leff, a lawyer and member of the AFL retail clerks had violated the act by insisting on a closed-shop contract with the store.

The examiner, Isadore Greenberg, held that the purchase of 44 percent of its merchandise outside California brought the A-1 Photo Service, San Pedro, under the terms of the act.

The union, in demanding continuation of a closed-shop clause which had been in contracts with the firm since 1944, took the position that the firm's business, being entirely retail, did not "affect commerce" within the meaning of the act.

PUBLIC PAYROLLS RISE; SET NEW RECORD HIGH

Chicago.—Civil Service Assembly reports disclose that government payrolls in the United States have reached an all-time high, the Public Administration Clearing House said.

The April payroll of federal, state and local governments totaled $1,228,-500,000, the clearing house said, as compared with the wartime peak of $1,139,800,000 three years ago. It does not include federal military personnel.

At present 5,346,000 persons were on the public payrolls, the clearing house said, about 12 percent below the wartime high, but an increase of 16 percent above the postwar level of July, 1947.

Local governments—cities, counties, school districts and special jurisdictions—account for 56.5 percent of all public employment and 46.5 percent of the country's public payroll.

The Right to VOTE Is Your Priceless Heritage
Don't Fail to Use It

FEDERAL LABOR UNION WINS 7-CENT PAY HIKE

Manville, N. J.—Nearly 2,000 employes, members of the AFL's Federal Labor Union 21626, won a 7-cent hourly pay increase under terms of a new contract negotiated with the Johns-Manville plant here.

The agreement, which was ratified by the union's membership, provides double time for the 7th consecutive day of work, 4 hours instead of 2 hours call-in pay, and payroll deductions for union initiation fees.

AFL PHOTO-ENGRAVERS WIN $12 PAY INCREASE

Chicago.—Local 5 of the AFL's Photo-Engravers Union here won a $12 weekly pay boost under terms of a new contract with the Chicago Newspaper Publishers Association.

The contract covers 276 engravers employed by the five daily newspapers. It extends from July 17, 1948, to January 17, 1950. No opening for wage negotiations is provided during this period.

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DEMOCRATS ASK REPEAL OF TAFT-HARTLEY STATUTE

Washington.—Carrying out the pledge in the Democratic platform, 4 Democratic congressmen have put a repeal of the Taft-Hartley labor law at the session ahead for action. Senators James E. Murray of Montana and Claude D. Pepper of Florida and Representatives Augustine B. Kelley of Pennsylvania and John Dingell of Michigan maintained in a statement that the law "encourages strikes, reestablished the "jungle law" of labor relations, and substituted for "disrespect" for government akin to that prevailing in fascist countries" and threatened small business with government control.

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STATE MEDIATION BOARD STEPS UP ACTIVITIES

Albany, N. Y.—The New York State Labor Relations Board in July 813 cases during the first six months of 1948, Executive Director Bernard Morehead Corsi, head of the State Labor Department's mediation staff, said. This represents an increase of 56 percent over the 521 cases during the same period of last year. The number of cases during the first half of this year totaled 1,322.

More than a thousand, nearly 58 percent of the cases closed, involved potential strikes. Seventy-five per cent were concerned with actual work stoppages. In 90 percent of these the cases strike threats had been eliminated by the mediation intervention between the disputing parties.

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Under the Selective Service Act of 1948, the Bureau of Veterans' Reemployment Rights in the Department of Labor has responsibility for assisting veterans and reservists in their efforts in the exercise of their reemployment rights.

AFL LEADS ALL UNIONS QUALIFYING BEFORE NLRB

Washington.—The National Labor Relations Board reported that 171 unions were qualified as of July 31 to use the board's facilities, divided as follows: American Federation of Labor, 93; Congress of Industrial Organizations, 59, and Independent, 49. Union officers must file non-Communist affidavits and financial data to qualify.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1948 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

LABOR'S GOAL! To Repeal Taft-Hartley Law

Last Rites Held For Francis P. Fenton; Prominent Leaders Pay Him Tribute

Washington.—Francis P. Fenton, international representative of the American Federation of Labor, was buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery here after funeral services at St. Matthews Cathedral attended by high officials of organized labor and government.

Mr. Fenton died in his office after suffering two heart attacks while he was preparing a report on the recent International Labor Conference in San Francisco which he attended in his capacity as U. S. workers' delegate. Prior to his appointment as the A.F.L. representative at international affairs, Mr. Fenton was national director of organization for the federation.

The George G. Higgins, assistant director, Social Action Department, National Catholic Welfare Conference, was the celebrant of the solemn requiem mass and delivered a brief eulogy in tribute to Mr. Fenton, who was one of the best known and best-liked figures in the American labor movement.

Referring to the fact that Mr. Fenton was born into the labor movement, Reverend Higgins said he had continued to devote his life to the service of his fellowmen as a practical expression of his religion and of the spirit which has animated the American labor movement.

Led by A.F.L. President William Green and George Meany, A.F.L. secretary-treasurer, a group of friends colleagues of Mr. Fenton's on the A.F.L. staff, and representatives of international unions and state A.F.L. affiliates served as honorary pallbearers at the services.

Messages of tribute to Mr. Fenton, expressing the awareness of the great loss his death has brought to the American labor movement have been received at AFL offices here from prominent citizens, government officials, and labor leaders of this nation and the world.

AFL President William Green, speaking of Mr. Fenton's death, declared that "we have all sustained an immeasurable loss as the result of his passing."

In tribute to Mr. Fenton's work in promoting democracy at home and abroad were messages received from Secretary of State George C. Marshall; David A. Morse, the newly-elected director-general of the International Labor Office and former Under Secretary of Labor; W. Averell Harriman, United States European representative under the Marshall Plan; Leon Jouhaux, president of the French Confederation of Labor organization which recently broke away from the Communist-dominated General Confederation of Labor, and Berthe Blanzat, president of the International Confederation of Workers.

Other messages received by the A.F.L. International Affairs Committee from Edward F. McGrady, former Assistant Secretary of Labor, a group of friends colleagues of Mr. Fenton's on the AFL staff, and representatives of international unions and state A.F.L. affiliates served as honorary pallbearers at the services.

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AFL TEXTILE WORKERS BOARD IN SESSION

Washington. — The International Executive Council of the AFL's United Textile Workers of America convened to hear reports on the southern wage drive, growth of organization, and the union's convention last March, and to discuss Taft-Hartley problems.

It is expected that the UTW council will adopt resolutions on the record of Congress at its recent special session and on the question of political action in this presidential and congressional election year. Because of the pressure of the rising cost of living and general inflationary trends in the country, which have been felt severely by the members of the UTW-AFL, it is expected that the union will also take action against the failure of Congress to enact an adequate anti-inflation program.

T-H LAW REPORT DELAYED ON REQUEST OF SEN. BALL

Washington. — President Truman approved extending the deadline for a report by a special congressional committee on the operations of the Taft-Hartley Act. Originally the joint Senate-House committee was to report no later than Jan. 2. Senator Joseph H. Ball of Minnesota, the chairman, asked for the extension until March 1, because he said it would be difficult to induce members to return in December to work on it.

Union-Made Campaign Hat

President Truman receives new union-made campaign hat from Max Zaritsky, president of the AFL's United Hatters, Cap, and Millinery Workers International Union.

Washington.—Max Zaritsky, president of the AFL's Hatters Union, presented a new gray campaign hat to President Truman for his use in the coming political campaign.

The presentation was the first of three scheduled by the Hatters Union, which is making hats available for the campaigning of the three major political parties for the nation's highest office. Mr. Dewey and Mr. Wallace will receive their union label hat-wearer at a later date.

A spokesman for the union emphasized that the presentation of these gifts in no sense implies an endorsement by the union of any special candidate. It is, rather, a reflection of the organization's belief in the American tradition of free elections.

This point was brought out by Mr. Zaritsky in his presentation talk to President. He said:

"We are proud of this union label in the long history and rich tradition of struggle for human rights, social justice, and advancement of American living standards. This, one of the oldest union labels in the world, is presented to you in the hope that a reflection of this union's belief in our democratic system of free elections. This system is presently under attack throughout the world. Certainly here in America we never want to tamper with the spectacle of a candidate for the highest office in the land taunting a union hat in the face of American labor."

Clothing Manufacturer Assessed $7,500 For Violation of Contract With ILGWU

Philadelphia.—The impartial chairman of the women's dress industry here ordered a former local beachwear manufacturer to pay the union $7,500 for opening a factory in New York City after dissolving a local partnership.

The decision, made public by Samuel Otto, manager of the Philadelphia Dress Joint Board of the AFL's International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, was handed down by Dr. Harry Shulman, of the University of Pennsylvania, and former chairman of the National War Labor Board.

In his ruling, Dr. Taylor established for the first time in the industry the principle that each single individual partner is responsible for violations of a union agreement following dissolution of a partnership.

The manufacturer, Hyman Robins, and two partners dissolved the "Robby-Len" company in March, 1947. They began operating as a union firm in New York 6 months later.

Dr. Taylor declared Robins' action violated the terms of an agreement between the union and the Philadelphia Waist and Dress Manufacturers Association "designed to further and maintain the stability of the Philadelphia market." He said:

"As a part of a collective bargaining contract for market stabilization, the employers agreed to provide for all their production needs by employing Philadelphia labor and Philadelphia facilities. In the reorganization of 'Robby-Len' all contractual obligations were scrupulously provided for. Every contractual obligation was taken care of except commitments assumed under the labor agreement.

"Operations in the women's dress industry are typified by much more frequent reorganizations than in other industries. If the employer obligations could be avoided by a simple change in business organization, then those obligations would wage on the meaningless. The association and the union therefore contracted to avoid such an unstabilizing situation.

"The entire dispute arises solely because Mr. Robins failed to recognize his obligations under the labor contract to continue the 'Robby-Len' business in Philadelphia.

"The contract and terms and conditions of employment at that new shop are the same in fact as the violation of the Philadelphia contract."

Dr. Taylor's decision was a signal victory for the union's position pressed by Otto and counsel M. Herbert Syme, who urged on the impartial chairman that the contract does not supply merely to a physical entity as the contract address but as ensures to the Philadelphia market the results of the producer, sweatshop and selling talents of the responsible individuals operating the management.

Dr. Taylor directed that the $7,500 be paid to the Joint Board's Welfare Fund from which payments are made to unemployed union members. The fund is maintained by contributions of the employers of 2¾ per cent of their payrolls.

The payment of $7,500, Dr. Taylor declared, "is not a punitive penalty or exaction of restitution but is solely intended enough to make it eminently clear that the labor contract compliance machinery and procedure is honored with impunity."

Approximately 340 70 union members were affected by the contract violation. Dr. Taylor concluded that the $7,500 assessment avoids any punitive damages but still provides for a non-inconsequential restitution."

Elections in Tennessee Reveal Labor's Strength

Washington.—The results of the recent primary election in Tennessee demonstrate how effective labor's political activities can be when good leadership backed up by an enthusiastic rank and file work together for the election of friendly political candidates.

Commenting on the victories won by Estes Kefauver, Democratic senatorial nominee, who won the Democratic senatorial nomination, and Gordon Browning, Republican, who was nominated for governor to succeed, AFL President William Green declared the election outcome "is a demonstration of labor's political strength.

"I hope it is a forerunner of what will happen later in the campaign when labor and all progressives rally behind the ticket."

Joseph D. Keenan, director of Labor's League for Political Education, declared that the results show "that labor can be counted on to forward its friends and rebuke its enemies regardless of party lines."

"The fight of Representative Kefauver to defeat the man who supported the Taft-Hartley Act and other antilabor legislation—is well known," said Mr. Keenan.

"Not so well known to the public is the hard fight in the 1st Tennessee Congressional District, formerly represented by Carroll Reece, Republican reactionaries tried to kill off Representative Phillips because of his votes against the Taft-Hartley law and other support of labor. In the 14 counties of his district his victory was made possible by the vote of the five labor counties.

"In addition the Tennessee governor who promotes antilabor legislation, was defeated by the labor-endorsed former Representative Browning."

AFL POST OFFICE CLERKS TO CONVENE IN MIAMI

Washington.—The National Federation of Post Office Clerks, headed by Leo E. George, announced that its 25th convention will be held in Miami, Fla., commencing August 23.

ILO OFFICE IN CANADA MOVES TO SWITZERLAND

Montreal.—The public information section of the International labor office is being transferred from Montreal to Geneva, Switzerland, David A. Morse, director general, said.

Maurice J. Tobin Accepts Post as Secretary of Labor

Former State Governor, Boston Mayor Takes Place In Cabinet

Washington.—Maurice Joseph Tobin, former governor of Massachusetts and twice-elected mayor of Boston, accepted the appointment as Secretary of Labor tendered him by President Truman.

The new Cabinet member, who at 47 is the youngest man ever named Secretary of Labor, was sworn into office before a distinguished company of high government officials and prominent labor leaders, including AFL President William Green.

Mr. Tobin withdrew from this year's gubernatorial race in Massachusetts in order to accept his federal post.

The new Secretary of Labor had been active in the past political campaigns. The first of these was his quest of a seat in Massachusetts legislature. He served in that body in 1927 and 1928. In 1929 he was elected to the Boston School Committee and became its chairman in 1933.

In 1937 Mr. Tobin won a 6-sided mayoralty race in Boston, defeating incumbent Albert Lane. Mayor, former governor of Massachusetts and mayor of Boston. He was reelected mayor in 1941, but resigned to accept the directorship of war labor in the 1944 election. In that campaign he had the active support of all elements of Massachusetts labor. He defeated his reelection as governor in the Republican sweep of 1946 campaign.

As Secretary of Labor, Mr. Tobin faces the difficult task of rebuilding the Labor Department which has been reduced to a mere shell as the result of activities of the 80th Congress.

The Labor Department, budgetwise, is by far the poorest of any of the departments. Many bureaus spend far more than the $14,858,150 which the Labor Department has for the current fiscal year. The National Labor Relations Board will have almost that much money if it spends its present allotment in the first 9 months of the year, as Congress has permitted. The Commerce Department's allotment from Congress is more than 10 times Labor's.

The Labor Department, which Congress created in 1913 "to foster, promote and develop the welfare of the wage earners of the United States," now has 3,300 employes, including its field force.

About a third of these are in the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which is not a labor agency any more than it is a manufacturing agency. The functions of BLS have been reduced, but because they are under a part of different name occupies the same offices in the department and performs basically the same functions.

The United States Employment Service recently was transferred from the Labor Department to the Federal Security Agency, although nobody in the executive branch seemed to favor such a move. The Immigration Bureau and the Children's Bureau went out earlier.

Two years ago the department acquired the Division of Veterans' Reemployment Rights. This year its activities were cut in half. The only activities left are supervision of the Apprentice Training Bureau, which now has nearly 500 employes.

IBEW LOCAL UNION WINS NLRB ELECTION

Beaver, Pa.—The AFL's International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers won the right to represent the employes of Westinghouse Electric Corp.'s standard control division plant in the NLRB election held here.

The vote was 265 for the IBEW and 232 against. The Office of United Electrical Workers (UE) participated against the IBEW's bid for representation as the incumbent bargaining agent.

At present about 900 production and office workers are employed at the Westinghouse plant. By the first production about 2,000 are expected to be employed.

Note to Editors

Through a typographical error in the August 13 edition of the AFL Weekly News Service it was incorrectly reported that Thomas A. Murphy had been reelected president of the New York State Federation of Labor. The correct name of the reelected president is Thomas A. Murray.

Musicians Union Exposes Real Story Behind Threat To Cancel Opera Season

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
• New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York—Whether or not the Metropolitan Opera House will open its doors this winter is an idle question, according to the facts. However, is that an attempted coup by the Met's "bloodlust" board of directors to pin the rap of the financial difficulties that the world famous New York City collapsed in the face of a public relations counteroffensive launched by Local 802, American Federation of Musicians.

The story, the results and obvious moral are worth recounting because they clearly prove that there is nothing for Met to do but to carefully detailed and correctly timed, to prevent unjust attacks by employers from ensuring success.

The Met's financial difficulties are historic. This year the Met informed the unions, with which it has contracts that it was either renewal of agreements "as is" or else—no season. Requests for wage increases were pared down and finally the sole remaining issue was the creation of a special security and pension scheme for the Met's employes. Local 802 informed the management that the orchestra would offer its services gratis for several weeks provided the Met consents to go into a welfare fund to benefit all the crafts represented. The Met informed the unions that it would "no" and then with no further ado sent off a long statement to the papers that the board of directors had voted to close the Met for the 1948-49 season. The Met's large deficit allegedly incurred by labor costs, as the reason for this decision.

The same afternoon that the Met's statement was issued, Local 802 put out its side of the story to the newspapers. The union's offer was not wage issues involved, that, in fact, no wage increase had been received by yearn, that not only had the Met's musicians not received the scheduled, but no meeting with the Met's board had ever been held prior to this decision to shut down, that the union had contributed over the years to help the Met hurdle its financial problems and that, most importantly, the Met belonged to all the people and not to a handful of directors.

Whatever labor-baiting might have followed the Met's press release was balked by issuance of the Local 802 statement. The Times and Herald-Tribune published the union's statement almost word for word by side and the Times that same day editorialized, "The Met must not close." The rest of the New York press took the same line. On the editorial side of the story and two newspapers published editorials clearly absolving the unions for responsibility for the Met's financial woes.

The customary practice of scapegoating the unions, and particularly the musicians and stagehands, was avoided. Instead, the facts, as they were presented, reporters on the metropolitan papers were kept closely informed of facts by union officials, and the story took on a sympathetic-to-the-record and off-the-record, throughout the controversy.

The simple step here was to state the union side of the story as quickly as possible, with no delay until the next day or the day after. The Met's statement got the play it wanted on the front pages of the afternoon papers. Thereafter, the union's position, telegraphed to the press, delivered by messengers and released to the wire services and papers with early deadlines, was in the city rooms of all New York papers and press agencies.

Delay in this matter, which was of national and even international interest, might well have been disastrous. Any subsequent story would sounded quite convincing—until the rebuttal was offered. Delay of even half a day would have meant that the Met's story would have had a field day in the papers and union denials and analysis would have had to struggle sledding catching up.

Proof of the effectiveness of this prompt publicity was visible not only in the favorable editorials of conservative papers but in letters to the editors which criticized the Met's decision. Readers were given the rare opportunity of studying both sides of the case and their judgment—on the facts—favored the unions involved.

Had not labor in this case been prepared for swift action, there is little question that the papers would have solemnly listened the usual chaste—"those damn unions."

Write your own moral.

Workingman's Inside Story Of Chicago Printers Strike

By DON BRESNAHAN
Chicago Correspondent for the AFL News Service

Chicago.—Did daily newspapers in the radio stations carry regular reports on negotiations between local 16, International Typographical Union and the Chicago Newspaper Publishers Association. More than 50 meetings have been held to date, and yet the printers and publishers cannot reach a settlement of the printers' demand for a 10 hour week.

To get the facts and also to find out what Mr. Average Printer thinks about the strike and the union negotiations, I visited the union headquarters.

I met Mr. Average Printer, in this case, Jimmy Burrows, 23, who has a pretty wife and two children, Maureen 7, and Jimmy, Jr., 5.

Jim was a printer, then became a journeyman for the Chicago Sun, which later merged with the Chicago Times to form the Sun-Times. Jimmy has been a journeyman printer for 2 years.

He walked out with the rest of the 1,500 members on the Sun-Times, Chicago Tribune, Chicago Daily News, Chicago Herald-American and Journal of Commerce, Nov. 8, 1947.

He walked out, he says "because we won't let them bust our union."

Q. Have you any objection to the 40 hour week that has been handed?

A. No. I wouldn't have done anything different.

Q. What do you think of the 10 hour week?

A. No, we're making out all right on our benefits, and besides, I work 10-12 hours a day on my outside job.

Q. How does your wife feel about the strike?

A. Of course she likes the 10 hour week as well as would I. But she knows my union and she knows we can thank it for whatever wage increases we got. And she knows that it was given us because we stuck in my old age and will take care of us if I become sick. She's with us, too.

Q. What do you think about the 10 hour week?

A. When the publishers realize that they can't break our union and that they can't buy a weak union, they'll be glad to sign for our union security.

Jim received $80 a week while on strike. It comes from union Printers who are working and from contributions sent in by union locals all over. "There's darned little gripping. The men know what they want."

Jim earned enough to sign the Sun-Times building for three months. They were the coldest months of the year.

Jim's union has had good experience in that field, he was asked to help with union publicity. He has done everything from running errands to announcing programs over WCFL, the station which airs the union's special broadcast at 9:30 p.m.

Jim Burrows was determined to see the strike through. We talked with his coworkers and with other printers who dropped into the headquarters, and they were all determined to stick it out.

So much for the individual-printer, but what about public sentiment? Everywhere I went I found enthusiastic support for the printers' demands. At the check room where I left my coat, the attendant, who was waiting patiently for her chance of getting a newspaper out. It hurts their eyes, and many oldsters can barely make out the words.

Harry Cohen, a member of the strike committee, said the public is, for the most part, on the side of the printers.

He told us about the number of strikers who contact Chicago pastors and ask the clergymen for permission to distribute strike literature in front of their churches.

"Almost every one of the pastors tell us to go right ahead," Rosemont said. "And here is the equally gratifying angle. Many of the pastors tell their parishioners not only to take our literature but to read it carefully, too. Some of them have given favorable sermons on our strike. And a lot of the boys found themselves being invited up to the parish house for breakfast."

Rosemont said public corporation is growing each day. Twenty newspaper carriers in Cicero, Chicago's "toughest" suburb, recently refused to deliver the struck newspapers when one of their number, the son of a union printer, walked off his job when his dad walked off his job!

"Lots of union members coming down here, too," Rosemont said. "They walk the picket lines right with our fellows and some of them conduct their own picketing when they are off duty from their daily papers."

Rosemont said many of the Chicago printers are working on newspapers from Boston to Los Angeles, but are remaining in the city to help their union issues them emergency working cards.

Rosemont told us about how hogs are working in the job shops right here in Chicago. They're working under the very same conditions the daily newspaper publishers refuse to grant!

(The printers' 4-month strike against the Franklin Association, commercial printing concern, ended recently. The strikers won a 40 hour week, $11.20 a week wage increases and protected their union security.)

The printers are frank, and freely admit that the strike has hurt them financially. As an example, Rosemont pointed out that the local's treasury dipped from a quarter of a million dollars to just $27,677.

But the union is not broke. The international is throwing its full weight into the fight, and labor unions everywhere, recognizing the importance of the dispute in Chicago to the entire labor movement, are backing up the printers.

"But our greatest asset isn't financial," Rosemont added. "Our greatest asset is the loyalty of our membership. We'll stick it out until we win. And we will win."

And that is where the striking Chicago printer stands today.